Atty. Dkt. No. 076326-0260

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Thomas GRASSER et al.

Title:

SEAT BELT DEVICE

Appl. No.:

10/632,093

Filing Date: 08/01/2003

Examiner:

Unassigned

Art Unit:

3654

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30. 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign search report.

Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language abstract has been provided for the A6 document. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/4/04

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		-
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE	Application Number	10/632,093
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	Filing Date	August 1, 2003
Date Submitted:March 4, 2004	First Named Inventor	Thomas GRASSER et al
Date Submitted.Watch 4, 2004	Group Art Unit	3654
(use as many sheets as necessary)	Examiner Name	Unassigned

Sheet

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	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
	Cite	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of	Date of Publication/Issue of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant
	No. ¹	Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	B1`	4,177,962		Hildebrandt	12/11/1070	
	B2	6,305,633	B1	Asagiri et al.	10/23/2001	
	B3	2002/0018120	A1	Kogure et al.	02/14/2002	
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Attorney Docket Number

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Fore Office ³	eign Patent De	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Т6
	B4	EP	1 172 255	A2	Fuji Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha	01/16/2002		
	B5	EP	1 177 954	A1	Kabushiki Kaisha Tokai-Rika-Deki- Selsakusho	02/06/2002		
	B6	DE	27 22 744	A1	Hildebrandt, E.	11/23/1978		Abst.
т								

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

	
Examiner	Date
Signature	Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.